

TAYMYR OKRUG

Shabat

35 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	4-19	CIA-15 USIA-10 OSD-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Report of US Air Force Officer in Soviet Prison Camp

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CENTRAL FILES

611.61241/4-958

Dr. Samuel Shabat, a former French citizen who was incarcerated in various Soviet prison camps from June 1941 until February 1957, has reported to an Embassy officer that there was an American Air Force officer held in a Soviet prison camp in 1951. Shabat had not seen the American and was not held in the same camp but had heard from other prisoners of the former's existence. According to Shabat, the American was held in Camp No. 11 of the Norilsk prison complex near Dudinka in the northern part of the Krasnoyarski Krai. He allegedly was an American Air Force officer attached to the United States Military Aid Group training Turkish pilots in Turkey. He had made a forced landing some time in 1951 just inside the Soviet border somewhere in the area of Erevan. He had been sentenced to 25 years in prison as an espionage agent and, as of September 1953, had been held for sometime at Camp No. 11. Shabat was unable to provide the name of the American involved and doubts that he ever heard it.

The Embassy has no way of judging the veracity of the story Shabat tells nor, for that matter, has he. The report is brought to the attention of the Department, however, in the hope that it may conceivably be of some value.

For the Ambassador:

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NFO 387404
BY NARA Date 7/19/94

William L. Hamilton
William L. Hamilton, Jr.
First Secretary of Embassy

HBS

Copies sent to Moscow and Ankara

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John
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REPORTER

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

Om

IRKUTSK

Skala

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DATE

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	8/24	CIA-7, ARMY-4, OSD-4

SUBJECT: American Citizen Detained in USSR

A recently returned Austrian prisoner of war, Adalbert SKALA, resident Vienna II, Muelfeldgasse 15, has reported to the Embassy the following information on an American officer, Lt. (fnu) RACEK, approximate age 38, with whom he claims to have been imprisoned in the Soviet Union. Skala states that he first met Racek in 1951 in Prison #2, Irkutsk, and that the two were cellmates in Irkutsk and subsequently in Lubanka Prison in Moscow until the time of Skala's release in 1955. Skala does not know Racek's first name, but reports that the latter had been a lieutenant of armored troops in Korea, where he was captured. Racek gave Skala the address of his father, Thomas Racek, 358 East 72nd Street, (Harlem 1), New York 21, New York, and asked that he be informed that his son was alive. Racek's prisoner number to which mail and Red Cross packages are addressed is 5110/51. Skala has been forwarding packages to Racek through the Austrian Red Cross and has received acknowledgments of their receipt. In addition, he and Racek worked out a system by which Racek is able to smuggle communications out to Skala through an exchange of Red Cross cards (the exact technique of which is not quite clear to the Embassy). Skala has received a card from Racek this month indicating that he is still in Lubanka Prison in Moscow.

Skala reports that Racek is not in particularly good condition, having had a number of front teeth knocked out, having lost his hair, and generally having suffered the effects of mistreatment. However, he did not indicate that Racek was in any immediate difficulties.

Skala states that subsequent to his release in 1955 he was hospitalized in Austria until recently and that this was why he had not reported to the Embassy earlier his information about Racek. He also states that he had been threatened by the Soviets with reprisals should he give any information to "the Austrians" regarding his imprisonment. Therefore, he had waited further until he could be sure of reporting directly to "Americans" and not through any Austrian channel. While Skala did not impress members of the Embassy as being of a particularly high degree of intelligence, he did appear sincere in his desire to help Racek and he was altogether positive in his information. He reports that he is writing separately to Racek's father in New York and requested that if the Embassy received additional information regarding Racek from Washington we inform him.

cc: Moscow
Dept pass to Army

LIEWELLYN E. THOMPSON

EF Rivinus/bhm
REPORTER

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NOV 1957